

then pay the extra \$10,500 per year to educate that child. Too many of such children entering a school can bankrupt a whole school district.

This nearly happened in North Chicago, Illinois. This community is home to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center where 50,000 naval recruits are trained annually. Hundreds of children from military housing came into the local school district each year. Several years ago, North Chicago's district 187 nearly went bankrupt under the weight of children coming to school from property that cannot be taxed. Impact aid payments had been later and inadequate. Thanks to the work of my predecessor, Congressman John Porter, this school system was saved through additional appropriations. Now, this bill will help all schools in the nation to welcome and educate military and other federally-housed children.

GRADE-A would alter the current status of two sections of the Impact Aid program, making them into an entitlement program. The goal of this legislation is to improve federal impact aid for military dependents and other children living on federal lands. Impact Aid was created in 1950 when Congress recognized the obligation of the Federal Government to assist school districts and communities that experience a loss in their local property tax base due to the presence of the Federal Government. To offset this revenue loss to public school districts due to the tax-exempt status of the Federal Government, Congress established the Impact Aid Program.

GRADE-A would ensure the effective delivery of Impact Aid by creating an Impact Aid Trust Fund to guarantee that local school districts are able to offer the best education to all students, whether they are of military parents or civilians. It guarantees prompt payment to schools without needless waits or bureaucracy. Under GRADE-A, Section 8002 of the current Impact Aid Law would become an entitlement, mandating that the local school districts receive the full value of the federal land which has been taken off the tax rolls.

GRADE-A would also turn Section 8003, the Basic Support Payments, of the current Impact Aid law into an entitlement program. GRADE-A mandates that according to a pre-existing weighted formula, each school district receives full payment for each federally connected child. Currently, additional funding is provided in this section for special education children. Section 8003(d) under GRADE-A would now mandate that each school district receive all the monies currently granted under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for each Impact Aid child.

GRADE-A honors our commitment to military families and other families, especially American Indians. It guarantees that those families who serve to protect our freedom and in turn protected by the federal government.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE ROMEO CHAPTER 19 LADIES OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Romeo Lodge #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of Michigan, who celebrated their 106th birthday on March 31, 2001.

Since the Grand Chapter of Michigan recognized the start of the Romeo Chapter #19 Order of the Eastern Star on October 10, 1895, the Romeo Chapter #19 has been a thriving sister center of social, religious, and political life to all its members and their families. Dedicated to education, morality, and improving the quality of life for its Masonic family, the Ladies of Romeo have worked tirelessly to improve the community through their contributions in charity, scholarship, and service.

Through the years, the Romeo Chapter #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star have devoted their time and efforts to maintaining the tenets of Masonry, encouraging kindness, respect, and good will towards all men and women. They have proudly organized philanthropic activities for members and non-members, assisting in times of hardship, sickness, death and disability. As they celebrate 106 years, I am confident they will continue to lead the community through their benevolent service.

Demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment, the success of the Romeo Lodge #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of its members and its community. I applaud Romeo Lodge #19 for their leadership, sisterhood, and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their 106th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE MIGUEL MIQUELI AND THE JOSÉ MARTI STUDENT AID FUND

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Miqueli, founder of the José Martí Student Aid Fund, Inc., for his contributions to education and to the Hispanic community in West New York, New Jersey. To celebrate the success of the José Martí Student Aid Fund and to honor Miguel Miqueli, an award dinner and dance will be held on May 5, 2001.

Miguel Miqueli was born on July 11, 1937 in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba. He received his elementary education in El Colegio Belen in Havana, Cuba. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Science and Philosophy from the Pitman Academy, and concluded his studies in Business Administration at Havana Uni-

versity. In April, 1961, Mr. Miqueli emigrated from Cuba to the United States, where he and his father opened a jewelry store in West New York.

In 1965, Mr. Miqueli became a member of the Lions Club of West New York, and he later co-founded the Hispanic Mercantile Federation, to which he was elected president in 1973; he is currently a member of the board of directors. In February 1978, along with a group of dedicated teachers, he founded the José Martí Student Aid Fund, Inc., and served as the president until 2000. As a collaborative effort with the Cuban-American Foundation he coordinated the project "Mision Martí" in 1992.

Through his work as an educator and community activist, Miguel Miqueli has truly been a valuable asset to Hudson County. He has compassionately dedicated himself to the field of education and to the Hispanic community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Miguel Miqueli and the José Martí Student Aid Fund.

A SALUTE TO DAVID HECKER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and achievements of David Hecker, as he is honored by The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring in Oak Park, Michigan on May 6, 2001.

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring is a national fraternal organization committed to the pursuit of social and economic justice while fostering Jewish identity through culture, education, friendship and mutual aid.

I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing David for many years. It is not surprising that David's life's work has embodied these ideals. His union roots run deep, back to Poland where David's paternal grandfather was active in the Bund (a Jewish labor organization). David's parents, Arnold and Josephine, were both activists in the labor movement: Arnold in the United Auto Workers and Josephine in the Health Care Union in the Bronx, New York.

David has pursued advanced degrees in labor relations and has worked his entire adult life on behalf of working people. He has been active with the American Federation of Government Employees, the Allied Industrial Workers, the Michigan AFL-CIO, the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, and the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel.

David embodies the values of social and economic justice in every aspect of his life. His passion for his work and beliefs shines through in his personality. David is a gifted organizer, motivator and strategic planner. He has used his talents in numerous roles to the benefit of many.

David is truly devoted to creating A Besere Un A Shenere Velt (A Better and More Beautiful World). His commitment to community is evident through his work as a board member of the Jewish Community Council and the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders, as well as his political activity in the Democratic Party.

We are truly fortunate that such a talented individual has committed his life to working for economic and social justice. We are especially fortunate that he and his wife, Alice Audie-Figueroa, have chosen to make the Metro Detroit community their home.

So, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating David and wishing both David and Alice, along with their children, Joelle, Jose and Gustavo, the very best.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING AUTISM AWARENESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H. Con. Res. 91, the Increase Awareness of Autism and Support Greater Research, Treatment & Training Resolution, to honor Autism Awareness Day, and to pay tribute to parents and families of autistic children everywhere.

As a result of autism, an estimated 400,000 Americans have lost the ability to communicate and interact with others. In my home state of Rhode Island, autism had become an absolute crisis. The incidence of the disorder has risen by over 1000% in the past seven years, and by over 300% in the past five years alone.

Caring for people afflicted with autism costs more than \$13 billion per year, and the majority of these costs are borne by the families of the victims of autism. These parents have sacrificed tremendously to provide the specialized education and support services that their children need. Yet, they still do not receive the support they deserve from the government.

My nephew has a form of autism so I know firsthand the challenges these families face. Many days, my nephew's parents cannot hold conversations with their son. Communicating with him takes extraordinary patience. Had his parents not engaged him in an intensive intervention program immediately after his diagnosis, he would have made much less progress today. It was not many years ago that children with autism would have been misdiagnosed and often institutionalized for the rest of their lives.

Parents of autistic children regularly encounter people who do not understand the difficulties associated with autism. Friends and teachers become impatient. They repeat the same phrase over and over, as if the child will understand if it is repeated one more time. Teachers are often ill-equipped to deal with the special challenges of autistic children. H. Con. Res. 91 calls upon federal, state and local governments to allocate sufficient resources to alleviate the shortage of appropriately trained teachers of autistic children; and recognizes the importance of worker training programs tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism.

The resolution further expresses Congress' support for increasing federal funding for research to learn the causes of autism, identify

the best methods of early intervention and treatment, and promote understanding of the special needs of autistic persons. It urges swift implementation of the Children's Health Act of 2000, particularly the establishment of at least three "centers of excellence" at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and at least five centers at the National Institutes of Health, in order to monitor the prevalence of autism at the national level.

As a proud member of the Coalition for Autism Research and Education (C.A.R.E.), I will fight for increases in support this year, to correct years of under-funding of organizations and programs that deal with autism issues.

In addition, the federal government must honor its promise to contribute up to 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special needs funding. To date, the maximum the government has ever contributed is 15 percent. As an original co-sponsor of H.R. 1330, the Helping Children Succeed by Fully Funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, I am fighting to ensure that the federal government honors its commitment to local districts.

It is of utmost importance to me that the federal government keep its promise to special needs students so they receive the first class education they deserve. I commend my colleagues for honoring this special day and implore them to work together to guarantee that the national crisis called autism receives the critical attention and financial support it merits.

THE PASSING OF REVEREND LEON SULLIVAN, AUTHOR OF THE SULLIVAN PRINCIPLES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a special tribute to the passing of one of America's greatest crusaders for civil rights and human rights both here at home and around the world, the Reverend Leon Sullivan. He left a rich legacy of activity and awareness, each new endeavor serving his vision of racial harmony and understanding, and he will be remembered for his crucial role in the right against Apartheid in South Africa.

As a Philadelphia minister with the Zion Baptist Church in the early 1960's, Rev. Sullivan organized a nonviolent boycott of local companies that would not hire blacks. The boycotts proved to be highly effective, but in order to bring about a genuine turn-around in the employment situation for black residents of Philadelphia he knew that many people would need professional training opportunities. In 1965, Rev. Sullivan attempted to address this training need through the creation of Opportunities International, a job-training program that has trained to date 1.5 million people in 142 centers worldwide.

Rev. Sullivan not only tackled tough problems, he also broke new ground in generating presence and visibility for the civil rights movement. He became the first black board member of General Motors Corp. in 1971—"the conscience of the board" according to then-

secretary to the GM board Rod Gilleum. Rev. Sullivan used his influence in this elite corporate environment to promote what would become his most famous civil rights manifesto: the Sullivan Principles.

The Sullivan Principles were designed to guide U.S. corporate behavior in apartheid South Africa. He described these principles as "a code that companies of America and the world came to follow to end apartheid peacefully, starting with the workplace." In explaining how one must go about reforming a system as entrenched as apartheid was in South Africa, he once noted that "if you take a hammer and chisel and pound a rock 100 times, it's going to crack. I pounded and pounded, and it cracked."

After retiring from Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Rev. Sullivan then created the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help. This foundation aided hundreds of thousands of people in Africa and the United States.

Rev. Sullivan's lifetime of service and achievement fortunately did not pass unrecognized. In 1992, then-President Bush recognized Rev. Sullivan's contribution to the promotion of civil rights with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1999, following the release of an updated version of the Sullivan Principles, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said of Rev. Sullivan, "He showed us all how much one individual can do." Rev. Sullivan's principles will live on to encourage corporations around the world to engage in fair employment practices.

Together with his wife Grace, his three children Hope, Julie, and Howard, and to the countless lives he touched and minds he opened, this Congress stands today in admiration and in gratitude of this extraordinary man and his very good works. Thank you, Rev. Sullivan, and may each of us learn from your example.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTOPHER SCHMUS, SBA YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to salute a man from my district who, at a relatively young age, has become quite the success story. Christopher Schmus, President and Chief Executive Officer of ProDriver Leasing (PDL) Systems, Inc., has been honored by the Small Business Administration as its Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Four years ago, after rising through the ranks of the trucking industry, Chris recognized the unmet need for highly qualified, professional truck drivers and set about to establish a business to fill that void. In 1997, at the age of 23, with only \$3,000 in cash, Chris started PDL out of his basement with only three drivers, including himself. The business recruits and trains its drivers, who are then placed with trucking companies who don't have enough drivers of their own, for a day, a week, or longer.